

Message Text

SECRET

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60

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OS-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 211255Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 0967

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAIN SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON ENGLAND

COMIDEASTFOR

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND

S E C R E T MANAMA 0734

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PFOR, MARR

SUBJECT : GOB REQUEST FOR CONTINUED DOD OPERATION OF BAHRAIN
SCHOOL

REF : MANAMA 0729

1) SUMMARY: FONMIN TOLD AMBASSADOR GOB WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP BAHRAIN SCHOOL OPEN. HE ASKED IF USDESEA COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE SCHOOL DURING 74-75 ACADEMIC YEAR. HE ENVISAGED RAISING FEES TO MEET COSTS. SCHOOL, CREATED BY NAVY AND DOD INITIATIVE, IS OUTSTANDING PROJECT WORTHY OF USG BACKING. END SUMMARY

2) FONMIN SHAIKH MUHAMMAD RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR NOV 20 PROBLEM OF FUTURE OPERATION OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL. HE SPOKE OF GOB'S DETERMINATION TO KEEP SCHOOL OPEN, AS DID HEALTH MINISTER ALI FAKHRO IN LATER TALK. POINT THEY EMPHASIZED WAS THAT THEY ENVISAGED BAHRAIN SCHOOL DEVELOPING ALONG LINES OF AUB'S INTER-
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NATIONAL COLLEGE WITH YOUNG BAHRAINIS MAKING UP POSSIBLY ONE

THIRD OF STUDENT BODY. THEY ALSO BELIEVE SUCH SCHOOL WOULD BE INCREASINGLY BENEFICIAL TO BAHRAIN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND HAVE REAL ROLE IN GULF AREA. IMMEDIATE COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD BE BEST, SAID FONMIN, WOULD BE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE SCHOOL AS IT IS NOW ON HIGH QUALITY BASIS. HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE UNTIL IT COULD BE SEEN WHETHER THERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT TOWARD MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT OR AT LEAST SO THERE IS SUFFICIENT TIME TO ARRANGE NEW OPERATING BASIS FOR FUTURE.

3) TO ACHIEVE THIS HE ASKED IF DOD DEPENDENTS SCHOOL SYSTEM (USDESEA) COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE BAHRAIN SCHOOL DURING 74-75 SCHOOL YEAR. GOB SEEMS TO EXPECT THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO PAY FOR THIS SERVICE COULD BE GENERATED BY RAISING SCHOOL FEES. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HOPED SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, AND WOULD ASK FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF FONMIN'S REQUEST.

4) BAHRAIN SCHOOL, CREATED ONLY TWO YEARS AGO AT NAVY'S AND DOD'S INITIATIVE, HAS ALREADY SHOWN ITSELF TO BE OUTSTANDING PROJECT WHICH IS WORTHY OF CONTINUING USG BACKING. SUCH SCHOOL OFFERING AMERICAN EDUCATION IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF WORLD COULD PAY LARGER DIVIDENDS TO US FOR YEARS.

5) PRESSURE OF TIME RE FUTURE PLANNING REQUIRES THAT SCHOOL PROBLEM RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION. WE DO NOT BELIEVE SCHOOL AND HELP REQUESTED FOR IT BY FONMIN COULD SERVE AS BARGAINING COUNTER IN QUESTION OF NAVY'S TENURE IN BAHRAIN. HOWEVER, FAVORABLE REACTION TO FONMIN REQUEST COULD HELP TIP SCALES IN OUR DIRECTION IF AND WHEN THERE IS DEBATE WITHIN GOB ON PROS AND CONS OF REVERSING REQUEST OF OCT 20 FOR NAVY TO WITHDRAW FROM BAHRAIN.
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